

Growing Greener Initiative
City of Dover
Summary of Activities
January 30, 2003
New Hampshire Estuaries Project Grant # CE991711-05

Executive Summary

Through the Dover Growing Greener Initiative, the Dover Open Lands Committee, Conservation Commission and Planning Department co-sponsored a series of workshops focusing on open space topics. Workshops were held on: Balancing Growth, Taxes and Open Space (60 attendees); Land Protection and Estate Planning (50 attendees); Smart Growth: Protecting Dover's Quality of Life (53 attendees); and Conservation Subdivision Design as a Tool for Building Community-wide Open Space Networks (94 attendees).

Two brochures and a display were developed to increase public awareness of open space issues in Dover. Numerous press releases have been written publicizing the workshops, highlighting the benefits of open space, and encouraging citizens to show their support for bonding money to protect open space.

As a result of these activities, the Dover Planning Board voted to allocate \$2.5 million for open space protection in the FY 2004 budget and an additional \$2.5 million in the 2006 budget. Public support for open space continues to be strong as the budget moves before the City Council.

In addition, the Planning Board and City Council have voted to require that all new major subdivisions be conservation subdivisions and they voted to create a residential TDR (Transfer Development Rights) district to try to protect outlying properties.

A number of landowners have contacted the Open Lands Committee to get additional information about land protection options, and two land protection projects are now well underway. A conservation easement has also been placed on 218 acres of the Strafford County Farm.

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Introduction:

Using funds from this grant, the City of Dover Open Lands Committee worked in conjunction with the Planning Department and Conservation Commission to plan, promote and present a series of workshops. These workshops were designed to educate decision-makers and residents about the economic, aesthetic, and environmental benefits of open space. In addition, the Dover Open Lands Committee developed two brochures and a display to publicize the Open Lands Committee and to encourage further citizen participation.

Project Goal and Objectives:

Project Goal

- To preserve Dover's community character by protecting its forests, fields, farm lands and water resources.

Project Objectives

- Dover citizens who participate will increase their understanding of open space issues
- Participants will increase their understanding of estate planning and conservation easements
- The number of conservation easements in Dover will increase
- Participants will increase their knowledge about two or three fundamental Smart Growth principles

Methods

1. Assign an Project Leader and Establish a Project Team

Accomplishments:

Anna Boudreau served as the Project Leader. Project Team members included: Anna Boudreau, Joyce El Kouarti, Wendy Scribner, Cheryl Buckland Niles, Sherri Wormstead, Michelle Forrest, as well as other Open Lands Committee and NROC (Natural Resources Outreach Committee) members who have been invited to participate. Julia Peterson, from NROC, has been of great assistance in this project.

2. Plan and Present a Series of Workshops

The Project Team, working in association with the Dover Planning Department, Conservation Commission, and NROC representatives, hosted four workshops.

“Balancing Growth, Taxes and Open Space.”

Speaker(s): Phil Auger, UNH Cooperative Extension
Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2002
Location: Dover Middle School Renaissance Room
Time: 7:00 – 9:00 pm

“Land Protection and Estate Planning.”

Speakers(s): Phil Auger and Brian Stern
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2002
Location: Dover Middle School Renaissance Room
Time: 7:00 – 9:00 pm

“Smart Growth: Protecting Dover’s Quality of Life ”

Speaker(s): Carolyn Russell (NH Dept. of Environmental Services),
Cynthia Copeland (Strafford Reg. Planning Commission), Charlie French
(UNH Cooperative Extension)
Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2002
Location: Dover Middle School Renaissance Room
Time: 7:00 – 9:00 pm

*“Conservation Subdivision Design as a Tool for Building Community-wide
Open Space Networks”*

Speaker(s): Randall Arendt
Date: Thursday, June 13, 2002
Location: Dover Middle School Renaissance Room
Time: Workshop 4:00 – 6:00 pm, hands-on design exercise 7:00 – 9:00pm

A fifth workshop:

“What the Shoreland Protection Act Means for Dover Landowners”
was originally planned as a part of the workshop series. Instead, the workshop, “Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act Overview for Municipal Officials” was held April 11, 2002. This workshop was not advertised with the other “Growing Greener” workshops as the presenter, NHDES, emphasized that the workshop content was geared toward planning board and conservation commission members and not the general public. Approximately 20 people attended the program which was subsequently broadcast on Channel 22.

3. Publicize Workshops

Accomplishments:

Publicity efforts for each of the workshops: (See attached articles, flyers and letters in Appendices at the back of this report)

- Distributed news releases to print and online media and PSAs to broadcast media, approx. 100 outlets total.
- Mailed approx. 100 invitations to city officials, conservation organization members, owners of 10+ acres of land
- Emailed invitations to conservation organization members (including NROC meeting attendees, City of Dover Open Lands Committee members, City of Dover Conservation Commission members, area Appalachian Mountain Club members, area Sierra Club members, Cochecho River Watershed Coalition members).
- Emailed invitations to city officials
- Posted flyers in shops, restaurants, mailrooms, on other community bulletin boards throughout Dover.
- The Mayor and City Councilors were invited to the first two workshops via personal/public invitations to attend during a televised city council meeting.

Each of the workshops was videotaped and several of them were repeatedly broadcast on Channel 22. Videotapes are also available for viewing through the Dover Public Library.

4. Evaluate Workshops

The Project Team provided sign-in sheets at each workshop to determine the number of participants and their affiliations. In addition, participants were asked to complete evaluation forms following each of the workshops.

Evaluation results have been compiled for each workshop below:

Evaluation Summary for Balancing Growth, Taxes and Open Space
March 20, 2002

Attendance: Approximately 60 people attended the program with 47 participants signing attendance sheet.

(NB: snowstorm on evening of event very likely contributed to lower turn-out than anticipated.)

Audience demographics:

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Planning Board/Department members: | 9 (7 from Dover) |
| Dover city councilors: | 2 |
| Other city officials (excluding conservation commission and OLC members): | 3 |
| Other quasi-city officials (ex., former councilors): | 3 |
| Environmental affiliation (including OLC, conservation commission, SPNHF, AMC, Sierra Club, etc.): | 18 |
| Dover landowners of 10+ acres: | 7 |
| Media | 1 |
| Unknown: | 17 (approx.) |

| Where attendees heard about workshop (from evaluations) | # responses |
|--|--------------------|
| Dover Planning Board handout | 1 |
| Durham planning department | 1 |
| Center for Land Conservation Assistance | 1 |
| Strafford Regional Planning Commission flier | 1 |
| Received flier, email notice | 1 |
| Dover Download (weekly city email announcements) | 1 |
| Listed on SaveDover.org web site | 1 |
| Joyce came to Sierra Club meeting to promote | 1 |
| Radio | 1 |
| Mentioned at city council meeting | 3 |
| Open Lands Committee Member | 5 |

Feedback (from evaluations)

| |
|--|
| Did you find tonight's workshop informative? (n=17) |
| Yes: 15 |
| Somewhat: 2 |
| No: 0 |

What was the most informative topic covered? (n=16)

Costs of different land uses

- Essentials of development cost
- Ratio of expenses
- Economic impact of growth
- Actual costs per house for services/schools/taxes
- Data analysis
- Expenses associated with servicing commercial and residential development and open space
- The high cost of residential development
- Cost of development
- Comparison of dollar costs between residential/commercial/open space

Benefits of open space protection

- How buying land to conserve may be less expensive than developing
- Economic benefit of open space
- Low cost of open space
- Relative cost/value of open space
- Cost benefits of open space

Water issues

- Water needs
- Looming water supply crisis

What was the least informative topic covered? (n=5)

Old Data

- Old data
- Older data that was either inaccurate or undefendable

Other misc.

- The Planning Board's responses
- Need more examples to explain
- Granting

How will you use what you learned tonight? (n=13)

Land Protection Advocacy

- Advocacy
- Spread word to Dover residents via OLC, word of mouth
- Promote Open Space
- Encourage Dover to protect more land
- More active with conservation commission
- To continue to be a voice for conservation in Dover

Policy changes

- Keep on working on the problem; try to build consensus
- Work on committee to implement a plan
- Incorporate in future planning ideas & recommendations to city of Dover
- Help with a zoning rewrite
- Influence town officials/committees

Misc

- Use as a counter argument to “growth is always good” argument
- Get more involved

Are there other topics you would like to see addressed in future workshops?
(n=8)

More detailed info on Growth, Taxes, and Open Space

- Strategies for slowing growth
- How to get a good study to a good presentation to a good action plan for Dover
- More generalized for individual cities, towns
- Non-market benefits of open space

Protecting open space

- Buy development rights
- Conservation Development

Other Topics

- Public transportation in Dover
- Grant information

Comments (n=4)

Positive

- Great workshop! Much appreciated! Great attendance even in a snowstorm.
- Enjoyed Phil and the evening! Need more input like this!!

Suggestions for improvement

- Would have been useful for Dover’s committee to analyze data beforehand and participate in presentation.
- I believe that the information on numbers of pupils in Dover should have been updated to include # of student from Barrington, number of students in private schools.

Evaluation Summary for Land Protection and Estate Workshop
Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Attendance: 50

44 people signed in. Several more people attended but did not sign the attendance sheet, so about 50 people attended altogether.

Demographics: 27 out the 50 filled out the on site survey:

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Landowners | 15 |
| Private Organization: | 4 |
| Board members: | 4 |
| City Employee: | 2 |
| Concerned Citizen: | 2 |
| Other: | 0 |

Total: **27**

Where attendees heard about the workshop (from evaluations): #

- Received invitation or flier in mail 15
- Read announcement in newspaper 4
- Heard about it on radio 0
- Learned about it from friend, family member, colleague 4
- Saw on website 2
- Other 2

Feedback (from evaluations):

How has this workshop affected your knowledge of the following topics?

| | <i>Greatly Increased</i> | <i>Somewhat Increased</i> | <i>Stayed Same</i> |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| ➤ Land Protection Strategies- | 13 | 12 | 1 |
| ➤ Conservation Easements- | 15 | 10 | 2 |
| ➤ Federal Estate and Gift Tax considerations - | 11 | 13 | 3 |

How has this workshop affected your willingness to...?

| | | | |
|--|----|----|---|
| ➤ Consider land protection measures on your land. | 7 | 14 | 6 |
| ➤ Get more information | 8 | 14 | 4 |
| ➤ Seek assistance to protect your land | 3 | 12 | 7 |
| ➤ Talk with others about the benefits of land protection | 10 | 13 | 3 |
| ➤ Support voluntary land protection measures in Dover | 10 | 10 | 4 |

Q-What was your primary motivation in attending?

| | |
|---|----|
| ➤ Desire to learn about land protection techniques: | 16 |
| ➤ Concern about loss of open space in Dover: | 15 |
| ➤ Concern about my taxes: | 3 |
| ➤ Concern about my heirs: | 3 |
| ➤ Topic is related to my work: | 3 |
| ➤ Other: | 0 |

Other comments:

- Great topic; great presentation.
- Very well organized and informative. I'm so glad to have attended.
- I think this series is very important...
- Need to hold these regularly in the area so when the word gets spread, interested parties can attend.
- Great job.
- Great work on getting this going and available to the public!
- Thanks.
- Please continue to support open land initiatives in Dover.

Evaluation Summary for Smart Growth: Protecting Dover's Quality of Life
May 14, 2002

Attendance: 53 people signed in.

1. Are you attending this workshop as a

| | |
|-----|----------------------------------|
| 22% | Landowner |
| 44% | Community Board Member |
| 11% | Member of a private organization |
| 52% | Concerned citizen |
| 0% | City employee |
| 7% | Employee of a public agency |
| 0% | Local Business owner |
| 2% | Other |

2. What was your primary motivation for attending?

| | |
|-----|---|
| 45% | Concern about the loss of open space in Dover |
| 17% | Concern about economic development in Dover |
| 55% | Concern about residential life (housing, transportation, community identity, etc.) in Dover |
| 10% | Desire to Learn about Smart Growth concepts |
| 7% | This topic is related to my work |
| 7% | Other |

3. How has this workshop affected your knowledge of the following topics related to Smart Growth?

| | Greatly Increased | Somewhat Increased | Stayed the Same |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Environmental benefits | 25% | 61% | 14% |
| Social benefits | 27% | 65% | 8% |
| Economic benefits | 31% | 58% | 11% |

4. How has this workshop affected your willingness to...

| | Greatly Increased | Somewhat Increased | Stayed the Same |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Get more information about Smart Growth | 48% | 36% | 16% |
| Consider Smart Growth principles for Dover | 56% | 22% | 22% |
| Talk with others about the benefits of Smart Growth | 56% | 36% | 8% |
| Support implementation of Smart Growth principles in Dover | 48% | 24% | 28% |
| Protect open space in Dover | 52% | 16% | 24% |

5. What aspects of Smart Growth would you like to learn more about?

| | |
|-----|--|
| 62% | Examples of successful implementation of Smart Growth principles in NH |
| 56% | Setting up conservation funding for your town |
| 40% | Examples of open space subdivision ordinances |
| 52% | Building design and neighborhood/community design |
| 36% | Transportation studies |
| 32% | Easement options and property values |
| 28% | Redevelopment |
| 36% | Tax implications |
| 48% | Educational opportunities for council, board and commission members |
| | Other |

6. Where did you hear about this workshop?

| | |
|-----|---|
| 54% | Received invitation of flier in the mail |
| 21% | Read announcement in newspaper |
| 11% | Read announcement in City of Dover Community Notes Newsletter |
| 0% | Heard about it on the radio |
| 18% | Learned about it from a friend, family member or colleague |
| 4% | Saw advertised on the following website _____ |
| 21% | Other |

Other comments or questions:

- Well done - thanks for sharing!
- Well organized and informative presentation - thanks
- I was hoping for more specific information/tools to implement smart growth. This was definitely a basic overview. Unclear of the purpose of Cynthia's presentation - social benefits? Was a little too long. Her enthusiasm was nice though.
- Carolyn did a good job of relating the principles to specific examples in Dover. Charlie should have thought about the viability of his example (Green Bay) for NH. What about that example could really happen here given our "live free or die" legislative climate? I did not really understand the last segment - nice stories, but it didn't really convince me that I needed to do anything differently. In fact, it made me feel like we're doing everything right already. Why are we having these workshops if Dover is already in such good shape?
- Good but a bit redundant. The travelogue seemed pointless.
- thanks!!
- Concerned about need for industrial economic development vs. smart growth of more residential. There is a need for industrial economic development to help the tax base.
- Attended to eavesdrop on the general sense of planning board members. A somewhat biased but very excellent presentation.
- Weeks Traffic Circle is a good example of poor uncoordinated planning.

**Evaluation Summary for
Conservation Subdivision Design for Building
Community-wide Open Space Networks
Thursday, June 13, 2002**

We are interested in improving the effectiveness of our educational workshops. Your feedback is very important. Please take a few minutes to let us know what you think. Thank you!

Please check the response that best reflects your answer to the following questions.

Attendance: 94 people signed in.

1. Are you attending this workshops as a...

| | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| 22% | Planner? | 28% | Concerned citizen? |
| 38% | Community board/ committee member? | 6% | City employee? |
| 19% | Developer/surveyor/civil engineer | 3% | Local business owner? |
| 3% | Realtor? | 28% | Other_____ |

2. What was your primary motivation for attending?

| All | Planners | Board Members | Developers | Concerned Citizens | |
|-----|----------|---------------|------------|--------------------|---|
| 28% | 14% | 33% | 17% | 67% | Concern about the loss of open space in Dover (and surrounding communities) |
| 9% | 0% | 8% | 0% | 33% | Concern about economic development in Dover (and surrounding communities) |
| 19% | 14% | 8% | 17% | 67% | Concern about residential life (housing, transportation, community identity, etc.) in Dover |
| 66% | 43% | 92% | 66% | 17% | Desire to learn about designing with open space considerations |
| 56% | 100% | 42% | 83% | 33% | Knowledge about this topic could improve my work |
| 9% | 14% | 8% | 0% | 0% | Other |

3. Where did you hear about this workshop?

| All | Planners | Board Members | Developers | Concerned Citizens | |
|-----|----------|---------------|------------|--------------------|---|
| 26% | 43% | 17% | 83% | 0% | Received invitation in the mail |
| 16% | 43% | 17% | 0% | 0% | Saw listing on OSP web site or listserve |
| 26% | 0% | 8% | 17% | 83% | Read announcement in the newspaper |
| 13% | 0% | 0% | 17% | 17% | Read announcement in City of Dover Community Notes Newsletter |
| 29% | 0% | 42% | 33% | 0% | Learned about it from a friend, family member or colleague |
| 16% | 14% | 17% | 17% | 17% | Other_____ |

4. How has this workshop affected your willingness to...

Greatly Increased

| | All | Planners | Board Members | Developers | Concerned Citizens |
|--|------------|------------|---------------|------------|--------------------|
| Get more info about ADS | 62% | 29% | 91% | 17% | 80% |
| Consider ADS principles in your work | 62% | 60% | 67% | 40% | 67% |
| Talk with others about the benefits of ADS | 77% | 57% | 92% | 50% | 83% |
| Implement ADS practices at work | 63% | 33% | 90% | 20% | 67% |
| Totals | 66% | 45% | 85% | 32% | 74% |

Somewhat Increased

| | All | Planners | Board Members | Developers | Concerned Citizens |
|--|------------|------------|---------------|------------|--------------------|
| Get more info about ADS | 34% | 71% | 9% | 67% | 20% |
| Consider ADS principles in your work | 23% | 0% | 33% | 40% | 0% |
| Talk with others about the benefits of ADS | 16% | 14% | 8% | 50% | 17% |
| Implement ADS practices at work | 25% | 50% | 10% | 60% | 0% |
| Totals | 25% | 34% | 15% | 54% | 9% |

Stayed the same

| | All | Planners | Board Members | Developers | Concerned Citizens |
|--|-----------|------------|---------------|------------|--------------------|
| Get more info about ADS | 3% | 0% | 0% | 17% | 0% |
| Consider ADS principles in your work | 15% | 40% | 0% | 20% | 33% |
| Talk with others about the benefits of ADS | 6% | 29% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Implement ADS practices at work | 12% | 17% | 0% | 20% | 33% |
| Totals | 9% | 22% | 0% | 14% | 17% |

5. What do you consider the major barrier(s) to implementing Alternative Design Subdivisions?

| All | Planners | Board Members | Developers | Concerned Citizens | |
|-----|----------|---------------|------------|--------------------|---|
| 3% | 0% | 8% | 0% | 0% | Not enough environmental justification |
| 10% | 0% | 8% | 17% | 0% | Not financially viable |
| 42% | 28% | 33% | 50% | 50% | Not enough consumer demand/ education |
| 45% | 57% | 50% | 50% | 33% | Not enough technical training available for developers/planners |
| 23% | 14% | 17% | 33% | 50% | Too much risk/ fear of risk involved |
| 71% | 57% | 75% | 100% | 50% | Not enough municipal support (e.g. unfriendly regulations) |
| 23% | 14% | 42% | 0% | 33% | It is non-conventional |
| 19% | 28% | 25% | 0% | 0% | Other_____ |

6. Would you like to receive notice about future workshops?

| All | Planners | Board Members | Developers | Concerned Citizens | |
|-----|----------|---------------|------------|--------------------|-----|
| 93% | 86% | 100% | 100% | 100% | Yes |
| 7% | 14% | 0% | 0% | 0% | No |

Additional workshop topics

- innovative regulations or zoning ordinances
- mixed use development
- open space planning
- Green spaces and industry/business
- Attracting green businesses
- Neighborhoods, creating community within your community
- Wetlands
- community development
- planning open space networks within and between municipalities
- Urban spaces as design elements
- writing model ordinance for conservation subdivision
- Urban infill design or reuse of existing urban buildings
- Planning for the elderly & retirement communities
- Aquifer Protection
- Current Use
- Wetland Management/Protection
- Any opportunities for interaction between developers, engineers, planners and citizens

Comments

- thank you for organizing this event!
- Very good
- Thank you for hosting this!
- Enjoyed presentation
- Thank you I wish it were mandatory attendance for planning staff and board members
- great experience!

5. DEVELOP BROCHURE AND DISPLAY

City of Dover Open Lands Committee brochure

A brochure was developed and 1,000 copies were printed introducing people to Dover's Open Land Committee. The brochure outlines the Open Lands Committee's goal of identifying and protecting Dover's significant natural and cultural resource areas, including drinking water supplies, farm and forest lands, critical wildlife habitats and historic and scenic areas. People are encouraged to contact the Committee if they are interested in volunteering for the Committee or are interested in protecting their land. The brochure was distributed during Apple Harvest Day (October 5, 2002), and is available at the Dover City Hall. The brochure is also being used by Open Lands Committee members when they contact landowners and others. (Please see Appendix for copy of brochure)

Protect Dover's Open Space Through Bonding brochure

A second brochure was developed, printed and distributed titled, *Protect Dover's Open Spaces Through Bonding*. This brochure was distributed to Growing Greener workshop attendees and people who signed a petition supporting bonding money to protect open space. The brochure encouraged people to attend a public hearing and show their support for bonding \$2.5 million to protect open space in 2004. Following the strong show of support at the Planning Board hearing, the Planning Board voted to allocate \$2.5 million for open space in the FY 2004 budget, plus an additional \$2.5 million in FY 2006. Since then, a post card mailing has been done to encourage people to show their support for bonding money to protect open space once again at an upcoming City Council meeting. (Please see Appendix for copy of brochure)

Dover Open Lands Committee display

A display was created for the Open Lands Committee and was set up and staffed at Dover's Annual Apple Harvest Festival. The display was developed to increase public awareness of the importance of our open space resources and the role of the Open Lands Committee in working to protect these resources. The Open Lands brochure, along with numerous other materials, was distributed to the public at the display. Grant funds were used to develop the display materials and to purchase a supply of Land Trust Alliance brochures: "Conservation Options" and "Protecting Your Land".

While the Project Team planned to purchase a display board with the grant funds, the Dover Economic Development Department donated a display board to the Open Lands Committee to be used for the display. Since the Apple Harvest Festival this past October, the display has been set up in the Dover City Hall outside of the Planning Department Office. (Please see Appendix for photographs of display)

Should Dover Bond Funds for Open Space Protection? display

A second display was developed for Apple Harvest Day, “Should Dover Bond Funds for Open Space Protection?” This display encouraged people to support bonding funds to protect open space. A petition/statement of support for bonding was also developed and available for signatures at Apple Harvest Day. Following the Apple Harvest Festival, the bonding petition and display were set up at the Dover Public Library. Nearly 140 people signed the petition.

Results and Discussion/ Conclusions

The overall goal of this project was to preserve Dover’s community character by protecting its forests, fields, farm lands and water resources. Project objectives included:

- Dover citizens who participate will increase their understanding of open space issues
- Participants will increase their understanding of estate planning and conservation easements
- The number of conservation easements in Dover will increase
- Participants will increase their knowledge about two or three fundamental Smart Growth principles

Results Under Objective One:

Dover citizens who participate will increase their understanding of open space issues:

Sixty people participated in the Balancing Growth, Taxes and Open Space Program. Participants included representatives from various city departments, landowners, and interested citizens. A majority of those completing evaluations found the workshop to be informative, and indicated that the most informative part of the program was learning about the costs of different land uses. The next most informative topic was learning about the benefits of open space protection.

Following the Balancing Growth and Open Space Presentation, the Dover Planning Board voted to support a resolution to bond money for open space protection. One planning board member said that the workshop really enhanced his appreciation of the costs and benefits of open space protection.

The Growing Greener activities have received extensive media coverage in local papers due to the work of Joyce El Kouarti and others. This coverage has kept the issue of open space in people’s minds and has served to increase public understanding of the values associated with open space protection.

The brochures and displays continue to be used to foster awareness of open space issues in Dover.

Information and education received through the workshops, along with media coverage, and brochures has prompted many people to actively support bonding money to protect open space. Fourteen people spoke in favor of bonding \$2.5 million to protect open space at the November 26th Dover Planning Board meeting. The Planning Board then voted to allocate \$2.5 million for open space protection in 2004 and an additional \$2.5 million in 2006. As this issue continues to move through the City Council, citizens have again voiced their support for allocating money to protect open space.

Results Under Objective 2:

Participants will increase their understanding of estate planning and conservation easements

Fifty people attended the Land Protection and Estate Planning workshop, including at least 15 landowners.

Twenty-five of the 27 people who filled out evaluations indicated that the workshop had increased their knowledge of land protection strategies and conservation easements.

Twenty-one of the 27 people completing evaluations said that the workshop had increased their willingness to consider land protection options on their land, with 22 people more inclined to get additional information. Twenty-three respondents indicated that the workshop had increased their willingness to talk with others about the benefits of land protection.

Grant funds were used to purchase “Conservation Options” and “Protecting Your Land” brochures from the Land Trust Alliance. These informational brochures are available at the Open Lands Display in City Hall, and they are also being distributed to landowners who contact the Open Lands Committee.

Results Under Objective 3:

The number of conservation easements in Dover will increase

Anna Boudreau, Growing Greener Project Leader has been instrumental in getting a conservation easement placed on 218 acres of the Strafford County Farm.

The Open Lands Committee is currently working closely with two private landowners to protect their land.

Eight landowners who attended the Land Protection and Estate Planning workshop have subsequently initiated contact with the Open Lands Committee to get more information about land protection options.

Results Under Objective 4:

Participants will increase their knowledge about two or three fundamental Smart Growth principles

53 people attended the Smart Growth: Protecting Dover's Quality of Life workshop.

94 people attended the Conservation Subdivision Design as a Tool for Building Community-wide Open Space Networks workshop.

Smart Growth participants included concerned citizens, community board members and landowners. The primary motivations for attendees were concerns about the loss of open space and concerns about residential life in Dover.

Over 80% of the evaluation respondents (Smart Growth workshop) indicated their knowledge of smart growth topics had increased as a result of the workshop.

The Dover Chamber of Commerce has since presented a mixed-use concept for the downtown waterfront development incorporating many smart growth principles.

Conservation Subdivision Design participants included community board members, concerned citizens, planners and developers. 96% of the participants indicated that they are more willing to get more information about Alternative Design Subdivisions(ADS), and 85% indicated that they were more willing to consider ADS principles in their work as a result of the workshop.

Seventy-one percent of the Conservation Subdivision respondents indicated that "Not enough municipal support (e.g. unfriendly regulations)" was a major barrier to implementing Alternative Design Subdivisions. Since then, the Dover Planning Board and City Council have voted to require that all new major subdivisions be conservation subdivisions and they have created a TDR district (Transfer Development Rights) to protect outlying properties.

Miscellaneous Results

The City of Dover received a Gulf of Maine Visionary Award for the Growing Greener Workshop series. The award reads,

" The Dover, NH Outreach and Education Committee, in conjunction with the Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Open Lands Committee, coordinated a series of "Growing Greener" workshops to address open space protection within the Gulf of Maine watershed. Through the workshops, hundreds of residents, decision-makers, landowners and developers learned about the benefits of permanent land protection and strategies for mitigating harmful impacts of development. The success of

the workshops continues. Through changes in zoning ordinances and subdivision regulation, the Planning Board is managing residential growth and protecting natural resources. Proponents of economic development have embraced open space protection as a means of controlling residential growth, stabilizing taxes and contributing to the quality of life for Dover residents.

This committee of grassroots volunteers, along with the municipal boards that supported them, deserves to be recognized for the results of their efforts and the ripple effect that their success has had through the NH Seacoast region. They have inspired other residents to step forward and offer their time and talent to the achievement of community goals.”

Project Leader, Anna Boudreau, also received a New Hampshire Municipal Association Volunteer of the Year Award. In addition to her work on the Growing Greener project, Anna is a NH Community Tree Steward and NH Coverts Cooperator volunteer.

As a result of the workshops the Dover Open Lands Committee has seen an influx of new enthusiastic volunteers. The Committee has also made significant strides, working with the Planning Department, in creating natural resource co-occurrence maps to help focus land protection efforts.

Recommendations (for future work or management strategies)

The Dover Open Lands Committee will continue to work with interested landowners to identify land protection options.

Outreach regarding open space and land protection will continue. Public awareness and involvement with the Growing Greener programming has been critical to Dover’s open space protection successes.

The Open Lands Committee, Conservation Commission and Planning Department will continue to collaborate on programming as appropriate.

Dover Growing Greener Initiative

A Final Report to

The New Hampshire Estuaries Project

Submitted by

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Wendy Scribner

City of Dover Open Lands Committee
City Hall
288 Central Avenue
Dover, NH 03820

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Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Executive Summary | 1 |
| Introduction | 2 |
| Project Goals and Objectives | 2 |
| Methods | 2 |
| Assign Project Leader and Establish Project Team | 2 |
| Plan and Present a Series of Five Workshops | 3 |
| Publicize Workshops | 4 |
| Evaluate Workshops | 4 |
| Evaluation Summary for Balancing Growth, Taxes and Open Space | 5 |
| Evaluation Summary for Land Protection and Estate Planning Workshop | 8 |
| Evaluation Summary for Smart Growth: Protecting Dover's Quality of Life | 10 |
| Evaluation Summary for Conservation Subdivision Design for Building Community-wide Open Space Networks | 12 |
| Develop Brochures and Display | 15 |
| Results and Discussion/ Conclusions | 16 |
| Recommendations | 19 |
| Appendices | |
| General Growing Greener | |
| Balancing Growth, Taxes and Open Space Workshop | |
| Estate Planning and Land Protection Workshop | |
| Smart Growth: Protecting Our Quality of Life Workshop | |
| Conservation Subdivision Design for Building Community-wide Open Space Networks Workshop | |
| Open Lands Brochures and Display | |
| Bonding Money for Open Space Protection | |